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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/564,626	02/23/2006	Sumio Ogawa	Q92356	2062
23373	7590	09/12/2007	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			LE, THONG QUOC	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2827		
		MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE
		09/12/2007		PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/564,626	OGAWA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Thong Q. Le	2827

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 July 2007.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-6,8 and 11-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 5,6,8 and 11-15 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Amendment filed on 07/20/2007 has been entered.
2. Claims 1-6, 8, 11-15 are presented for examination.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6, 8, 11-15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Poteet et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,532,966).

Regarding claim 1, Poteet et al. disclose a semiconductor memory device (Figure 2) which has a redundancy circuit (Figure 4, 44, ABSTRACT), the semiconductor memory device comprising:

a plurality of memory blocks (Figure 1, 14, ABSTRACT); and

a plurality of redundancy memory blocks (Figure 2, 26, 24, ABSTRACT) provided for each of said plurality of memory blocks,

wherein each of said plurality of memory blocks includes a plurality of segments (Figure 3, 46, ABSTRACT, *a redundant row segment(46)*),

said plurality of segments are adjacent to one after another (Figure 3, 46, 32, Column 3, lines 2-10),

segments having defects among said plurality of segments are dispersively allocated to said plurality of redundancy memory blocks and replaced by said allocated redundancy memory blocks (Column 2, lines 59-67, Column 3, lines 12, Column 4, lines 61-67, Column 5, lines 1-5). and

each of said plurality of redundancy memory blocks has a redundancy segment which replaces any of the segments having defects (Column 4, lines 53-60).

Figure 3 of Poteet et al. disclosed a redundancy segment 46 is replaced for any standard 32 when 32 is defected.

Regarding claims 2-3, Poteet et al. disclose wherein one each of said plurality of segments includes one or more adjacent memory cell rows (Figure 3, 58) or one or more adjacent memory cell columns (Figure 2, 26, Column 2, lines 59-67, Column 3, lines 1-12), and wherein a position of an address bit for selecting said plurality of memory blocks is different from a position of an address bit for selecting said plurality of redundancy memory blocks (Figures 3-4, Column 4, lines 34-67, Column 5, lines 1-60).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 4 includes allowable subject matter since the prior art made of record and considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure does not teach or suggest the claimed limitations. Poteet et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,532,966), and others, does not teach the claimed invention having wherein address bits that define said plurality of segments are lower address bits, and address bits for selecting said plurality of redundancy memory blocks include an address bit immediately above said lower address bits.

7. Claims 5-6,8,11-15 are allowed.

Claim 5-6, 8, 11-15 include allowable subject matter since the prior art made of record and considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure does not teach or suggest the claimed limitations. Poteet et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,532,966), and others, does not teach the claimed invention having a number indicating said redundancy memory block allocated to said any segment is given by a remainder generated when an address indicating said any segment is divided by a number of said plurality of redundancy memory blocks.

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

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shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thong Q. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-1783. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Zarabian Amir can be reached on 571-272-1852. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Thong Q. Le
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2827

